

St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco

www.stthomasmore-sf.org

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Thomas K. Hockel
Immediate Past President
Msgr. Labib Kobti, Chaplain

Address Correspondence To:

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Regis Servus Dei Prius

March 13, 2014

Dear Members and Friends of the Society:

The new year is off to a great start with lots of membership participation in our first luncheon in January and our first Theology on Tap discussion on February 27. The Theology on Tap event featured a discussion of St. Thomas More and Utopia led by member **Michael Carbone**. Special thanks to Michael for a very interesting talk and to Executive Board member **Karen Kimmey** for organizing this event.

At our January meeting, we made a donation to the Church of St. Thomas More in honor of our Chaplain, MSGR Labib Kobti. We received a kind thank you note, which is attached. Our donation will be used to sustain and strengthen the Church's Brazilian, Filipino, and Arabic communities and the college student campus ministry at UCSF.

March 27 Luncheon

Please join us for our monthly luncheon on Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. at The Family Club, 545 Powell Street, San Francisco (at the corner of Bush and Powell). Our speaker is **Sean Elsbernd, Deputy State Director, Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein**, and a **former Supervisor for the City of San Francisco**. Sean's talk will focus on how he balanced his Catholic faith with his role as a Member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

The **Lunch Reservation Form** is attached to this letter and you will also receive an E-Vite. Please "Reply" to the E-vite **and** also return the Lunch Reservation Form to our Treasurer, Matt Graham. We ask that luncheon reservations be made in advance, with payment if possible, as this permits an accurate headcount for lunch. If you RSVP but cannot attend, please let us know at least 48 hours in advance so we may cancel your

lunch order. We are charged based on our RSVP numbers, so we must charge you for last minute cancellations.

Potential members may attend a luncheon compliments of the Society. We encourage you to invite prospective members.

Lenten Series- The Resurrection Narratives

As Easter approaches, **Don Carroll** is leading his popular **Lenten Series** on the **Resurrection Narratives**. We are meeting for a brown bag lunch and discussion on the following dates: Tuesday, March 11, Tuesday, March 25, Tuesday, April 1, and Thursday, April 10, 2014, at 12:00 noon, ending at 1:00 p.m. sharp, at the offices of Kelly, Hockel & Klein, P.C., 44 Montgomery, Suite 1500. No RSVPs are required, there is no charge for the Series, and you do not need to attend the entire Series.

Invitation to the Chrism Mass on April 10, 2014

Archbishop Cordileone has invited the members of the Society to attend the annual **Chrism Mass** which he will celebrate at St. Mary's Cathedral on Thursday, **April 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.**, the week before Holy Week. In this celebration of the sacramental life of the Archdiocese, the Holy Oils will be marked for use in the sacramental celebrations throughout the coming year. The formal invitation is attached.

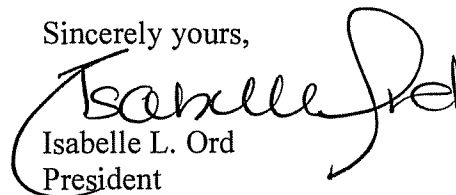
2014 Dues and Membership

The **2014 Membership Form** may be used to pay your dues and update membership records. Your dues enable us to fund events, attract quality speakers, and award the Society scholarships. As a cornerstone of our efforts to expand our membership, we are **reducing our annual dues for membership this year**. Annual dues for 2014 are **\$75.00 for attorneys over five (5) years of practice** (reduced from \$100), **\$25.00 for attorneys with less than five (5) years of practice or retired attorneys** (reduced from \$50), and **law student membership is complimentary** (reduced from \$25.00). We hope this reduction in dues for 2014 will enable the Society to attract new members and to retain our existing members.

Please look for our monthly newsletters for updates on future events and opportunities to be more involved with the Society. You can also check our website any time at www.stthomasmore-sf.org for updates and information.

On behalf of the Executive Committee:

Sincerely yours,



Isabelle L. Ord
President

Updates from our Chaplain, MSGR Labib Kobti

Pope Francis elevated 19 new bishops to become cardinals on Sunday Feb. 23rd. Some of them are from new countries and the poorest countries like Haiti, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast. He did not choose any new American cardinals.

In February, the Pope met with the "group of eight" cardinals, representing every continent to hear recommendations to help him govern of the church. The issues discussed include: a) Reform the Vatican Bank and finances and bring accounting up to international standards; b) October Synod of bishops on family issues; and c) prevention of child abuse.

When he could use a Vatican diplomatic passport, Pope Francis, opted out of receiving any privileges in choosing to renew his Argentinean passport and paid for it and for his identity card.

Pope Francis establish the first ever Vatican secretariat for economic affairs, independent of the State Secretariat. It will supervise the financial affairs of all Vatican departments. It will be supervised by another new body, the Council for the Economy, which will include 15 members, eight bishops and seven lay experts, drawn from different parts of the world. Cardinal George Pell of Sydney, Australia, to be the 1st prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy.

Challenges:

The Pope will visit Jordan, Palestine and Israel from May 24-26. He will take a helicopter from Jordan directly to Bethlehem which means that he will go to Palestine first before he goes to Israel, as Bethlehem is under the Palestinian authority. The Israelis criticized this move, but the Pope insisted. This is the first time that a Pope has made such a move.

The Pope took the initiative of an unusual step of commissioning surveys from bishops' conferences around the world, congregations and groups on how their peoples understand the Catholic teaching on marriage, sex, homosexuality, birth control, living together, divorce and other issues related of family. Answers that came from some European, USA and Asian Conferences were eye openers: People are mainly unaware, ignore, or and reject as unrealistic the Church's teaching on sexual morals, prohibiting artificial contraception, birth control, condom, living together, civil marriage, divorce and homosexuality. They speak about a "big gap between the Vatican and reality". What would be the answer of the Fathers of the Church at the October's 2014 Synod of Bishop? We are facing difficult times. Prayers are needed.

I followed the UN report condemning the Vatican. It was detailed in many News agencies on TV and in newspapers, but many ignored the response of the Vatican. It was not reported or when reported it was brief and distorted. On French TV they reported the condemnation but they did not say anything about the answer of the Vatican. Did any of

you feel the same? Catholic SF had a good article about the response of the Vatican. It is worth a read.

Will be there a lot of media coverage on the move of the Pope going directly from Jordan to Bethlehem which is under the Palestinian Authority rather than going to Israel and then to Palestine? We will see!

Local News:

Archbishop Cordileone announced the appointment of a new permanent President/Rector of St. Patrick's Seminary & University: Rev. Gladstone "Bud" Stevens, S.S., a wonderful Sulpician theologian who is well known to many of you. Currently the Vice Rector, Fr. Stevens will assume his new position on June 1st. He will replace Bishop Tom Daly, assistant bishop of San Jose.

Expect soon the date of the blessing of the Holy Oils at the Cathedral. (Please see the attached invitation from Archbishop Cordileone to Society members to attend the Chrism Mass.)

Ordination of new deacons on May 31st at 11:00 AM (three of them from St. Thomas More Church).

MSGR Kobti may be reached at veryfriendlyto@aol.com.

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY MARCH 2014 LUNCHEON RESERVATION
THE FAMILY CLUB

545 Powell Street, San Francisco (corner of Bush and Powell)

Please use this Form to reserve your spot at the luncheon and to make payment even if you have already responded to the Evite.

_____ I plan to attend the St. Thomas More Society Luncheon at **12:00 noon** on **March 27, 2014**, at The Family Club, 545 Powell Street.

Please reserve ___ places at \$49 per person (over 10 years in practice).

Please reserve ___ places at \$42 per person (10 years or less in practice).

Please reserve ___ places at \$24 per person (law students and clergy).

No charge for pastors or first time guest visitors to the Society.

Member Name: _____

Member e-mail: _____

Names of other attendees for whom payment is submitted:

_____ I am bringing the following potential member as a Guest of the Society (no charge):

_____ I would like to sponsor one or more law students or members of the clergy at \$24 per person and include \$_____ in my check for such purpose.

The total amount of my enclosed check is \$_____.

Please make checks payable to the "St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco." If you RSVP and cannot attend, please let us know in advance. Cancellations on less than 48 hours cannot be reimbursed.

Please send this form and checks to Treasurer:

Matthew F. Graham | Wendel Rosen Black & Dean LLP

Phone 510.834.6600 | Fax 510.834.1928

1111 Broadway, 24th Floor | Oakland, CA 94607

Email: mgraham@wendel.com

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO
2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Use this form to pay your annual Dues and update your Membership Record.
New members may use this form to join the Society.*

Name: _____

Firm, Company or Court: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Parish: _____

Law Student? _____ No dues for law students in 2014

Year Admitted to Bar: _____ Retired from Practice? _____

Please accompany this application with current dues payment. Annual dues for 2014 are **reduced**: \$75 for attorneys over five (5) years in practice; \$25 for attorneys retired from practice and attorneys with five (5) years or less in practice; and \$0 for law students. Please make checks payable to **St. Thomas More Society**.

Return form and check to:
Matthew F. Graham
Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean, LLP
1111 Broadway, 24th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607
Phone 510.834.6600 | Fax 510.834.1928
mgraham@wendel.com



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-6602 (415) 614-5500

March 10, 2014

Ms. Isabelle L. Ord
President, St. Thomas More Society
DLA Piper LLP (US)
555 Mission Street, Suite 2400
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Ord,

I would like to extend an invitation to you and members of the St. Thomas More Society to attend the annual *Chrism Mass*, which I will celebrate at St. Mary's Cathedral on Thursday, April 10, at 5:30 PM, the week before Holy Week.

This is a unique and moving celebration of the sacramental life of the Archdiocese, during which the Holy Oils will be marked for use in sacramental celebrations throughout the coming year: the blessing of Oil of the Sick, used in the Sacrament of the Anointing the Sick; the blessing of Oil of Catechumens, used in celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism; the consecration of Sacred Chrism, used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.

Because the Chrism Mass is linked liturgically to the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, which commemorates the institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood, the priests of the Archdiocese will renew the promises they made at the time of their priestly Ordination during this Mass.

I would be most grateful if you would encourage participation in this beautiful celebration, which displays so effectively the unity of our local Church as clergy and lay faithful gather at one altar with their Bishop.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend Salvatore Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco

Church of
ST. THOMAS MORE

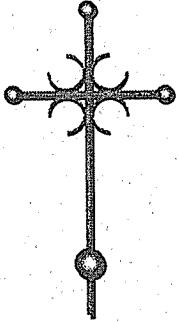
February 20, 2014

St. Thomas More Society

555 Mission Street, Suite 2400

San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco,



Thank you very much for your \$500 donation to St. Thomas More Parish. We are honored and deeply grateful to be a recipient of your generosity. Please be assured that the donation will be used well in service to our community. Your kindness enables us to continue ministry here at the church, sustaining and strengthening our Brazilian, Filipino, and Arabic communities, as well as our college student campus ministry at UCSF.

I pray for blessings upon you and your family in your work and giving. May God's love envelope you and those nearest to your hearts.

With great gratitude,

Handwritten signature of Labib Kobti.

Msg. Labib Kobti

Pastor